



March 23, 2004



MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Re: Application of **Teiji EKIDA, Harutaka YAGAME, Hiroshi IIDA, Kiyoshi YASUKAWA, Shigeo TSUCHIYA** and **Teruhiko Shigeo** entitled **"IL-6 RECEPTOR • IL-6 DIRECT FUSION PROTEIN"**
Assignee: **TOSOH CORPORATION**
Our Ref: **Q-80657**

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Continuation Application of pending prior Application No. 09/743,239 (Confirmation No.2873) filed January 5, 2001, of Teiji EKIDA, Harutaka YAGAME, Hiroshi IIDA, Kiyoshi YASUKAWA, Shigeo TSUCHIYA, and Teruhiko IDE entitled "IL-6 RECEPTOR • IL-6 DIRECT FUSION PROTEIN"; which is a 371 of PCT/JP99/03554, filed July 1, 1999.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims, Abstract, 13 sheets of drawings and a copy of the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney (as filed in the prior application).

Also, filed simultaneously herewith is a Preliminary Amendment, Information Disclosure Statement (accompanied by Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) - listing references cited by the Examiner and/or Applicants during prosecution of the prior application), and a Statement in Support of Submission (accompanied by the Sequence Listing).

Further, a Petition for Three-month Extension of Time, along with payment of the appropriate fee, is being filed concurrently herewith in Parent Application No. 09/743,239.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1646.

Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
JAPAN	Hei 10-190597	July 6, 1998
JAPAN	Hei 11-21788	January 29, 1999
JAPAN	Hei 11-123411	April 30, 1999

The priority documents were submitted during entry of National Stage for Parent Application No. 09/743,239.



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The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>16</u>	-	20	=	<u> </u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u> </u>	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>13</u>	-	3	=	<u>10</u>	x	\$86.00	=	<u>\$860.00</u>	
Base Fee										<u>\$770.00</u>

TOTAL FILING FEE

\$1630.00

A check for the statutory fee, in the amount of \$1,630.00, is attached.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Attorneys for Applicants

By 

Drew Hissong
Registration No. 44,765

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER